

JOHN IN THE HEART OF THE BRONX

Posted on [June 8, 2010](#) by [Lloydville](#)



[Photo by Bruce Aydelotte]

Above is a picture of John Lettiere, whose passing I wrote about in the previous post on this site.

It makes me smile, mainly because of the intent look on John's face — which usually meant he was about to say something outrageous or funny or wise, and often all three at once.

To a friend from the old Dylan newsgroup where I first encountered John I wrote:

John was a quintessentially American type — a gentleman and a scholar who looked and behaved and talked like a common longshoreman. No other nation on earth could have produced a man like him — a kind of Whitmanesque ideal.

John was laid to rest earlier today. Peter Stone Brown read some words over him and sang “I Shall Be Released”. In life, John would have said, “Fuck that shit,” but I suspect he would have been touched as well.

John was a big Dylan fan but he **hated Dylan's Christmas album and thought that those of us who loved it had taken leave of our senses. It occurs to me that I'm never going to be able to listen to it again without hearing John's voice in the back of my mind — “You've gotta fucking be kidding me!” That will be part of Christmas for me, too.**